

YEAR  
**4**

2002

# AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS ENGLISH COMPETITION

50 QUESTIONS

TIME ALLOWED: 50 MINUTES

STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL INSTRUCTED.**

Read the instructions on the **ANSWER SHEET** and fill in your **NAME, SCHOOL YEAR, GENDER** and the **LANGUAGE YOU FIRST SPOKE**.

Use the information provided to choose the **BEST** answer from the four possible options.

Questions may sometimes be placed next to each other.  
Make sure you read **ACROSS** the page and answer the questions in the correct order.

On your **ANSWER SHEET** blacken the circle that matches the answer you choose.

Mark only **ONE** answer for each question.

Your score will be the number of correct answers.  
Marks are **NOT** deducted for incorrect answers.

**Mark your answers on the Answer Sheet only.**

Use a 2B or B pencil.

Do **NOT** use a biro or pen.

Rub out any mistakes completely.

You are **NOT** allowed to use a dictionary.

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES

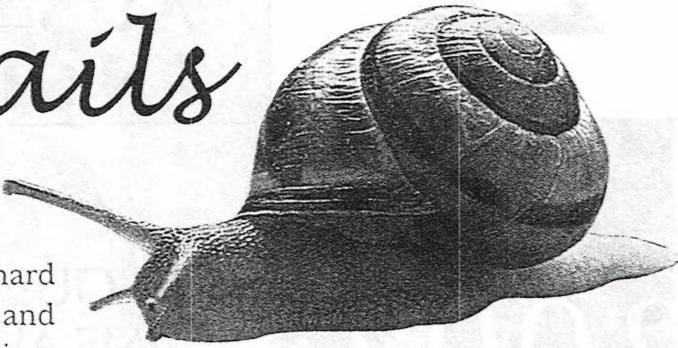


ETC  
EDUCATIONAL  
TESTING CENTRE

Read "Slimy Trails" and answer questions 1 to 5.

# Slimy Trails

Snails are easy to find in gardens and parks. They have soft, slimy bodies and a hard shell. Snails are born with their shells and they stay firmly stuck to them until they die.



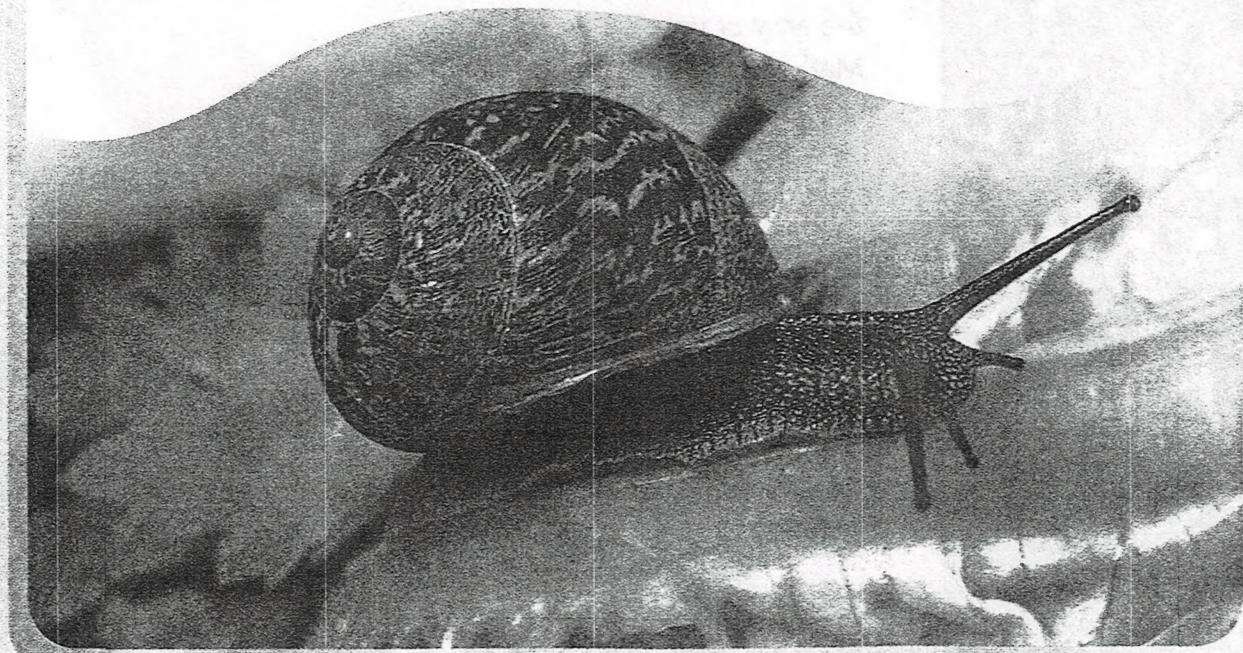
The soft rubbery part of a snail is called its foot. The snail glides slowly along by rippling the sole of its foot.

You can tell where a snail has been by its trail of silvery slime. The slime protects the snail's foot from scratches.

Snails have a radula in their mouths, for grinding up their food. It's like a hard tongue covered in thousands of tiny teeth.

Most snails are vegetarians, but they're not generally fussy eaters. Some are even fond of soggy cardboard.

Lots of snails have their eyes at the end of long stalks. If a snail gets scared, it pulls its eye-stalks right back inside its head.



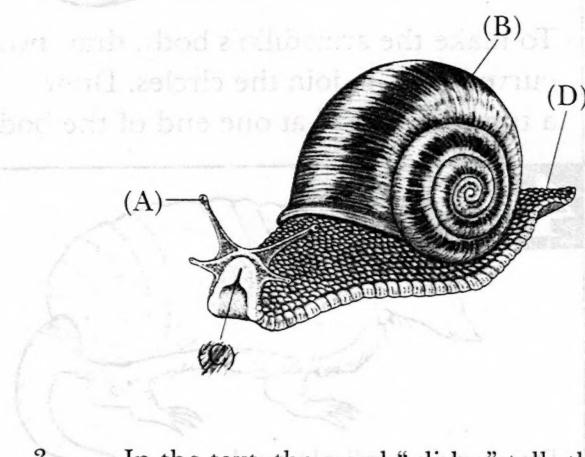
# How A Snail Works

1. A snail uses slime to help it

- (A) grind its food.
- (B) protect its foot.
- (C) stick to its shell.
- (D) cover its mouth.

2. Look at the picture below.

Where would the snail's radula be found?



3. In the text, the word "glides" tells the reader

- (A) how the snail moves.
- (B) when the snail moves.
- (C) where the snail moves to.
- (D) why the snail moves.

4. Which words could be used to replace "It's" in this text?

- (A) It was
- (B) It has
- (C) It is
- (D) It does

5. What does a snail do when it gets scared?

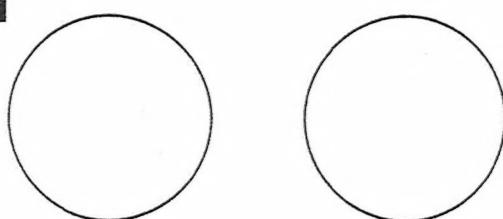
- (A) It pulls in its eye-stalks.
- (B) It grinds its teeth.
- (C) It glides on the ground.
- (D) It leaves a slimy trail.

Read "How to Draw an Armadillo" and answer questions 6 to 11.

# How to Draw an Armadillo

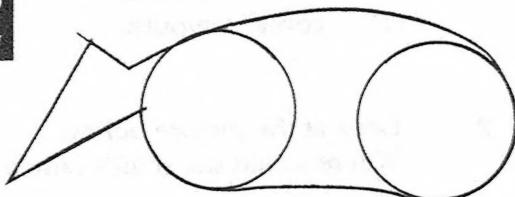
Here is a quick way to draw an armadillo!

1



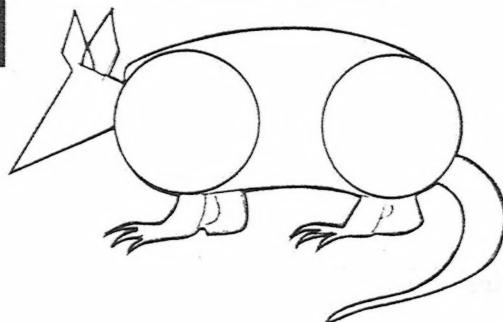
Start by drawing two circles.

2



To make the armadillo's body, draw two curved lines to join the circles. Draw a triangular head at one end of the body.

3



Add two diamond shapes for ears. Then draw a long curved tail, and the legs and feet.

4



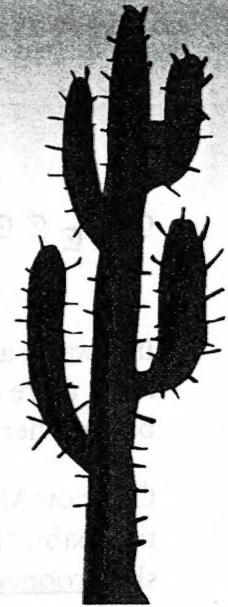
Draw stripes all along the body and tail. Fill the stripes with semi-circles and ovals, for scales. Draw lines under the body for hair. Finally, add the details to the face and legs.

6. The two curved lines are drawn to make the armadillo's
- (A) legs.  
(B) ears.  
(C) head.  
 (D) body.
7. Which of the following words could replace the word "Add" in Step 3?
- (A) Draw  
(B) Place  
 (C) Combine  
(D) Paste
8. In these instructions, in which order are these features of the armadillo drawn?
- (A) tail, legs, feet and then the ears  
(B) ears, legs, stripes and then the tail  
(C) eyes, ears, tail and then the scales  
 (D) ears, tail, scales and then the eyes
9. According to the information, what happens to the desert landscape at night?
- (A) The moon turns a warm shade of yellow.  
(B) The desert turns a deep shade of brown.  
 (C) The mountains appear purple in colour.  
(D) The sky appears to be a glowing white.



The next step is to colour in the armadillo and create the background scene. Remember that reds, oranges and yellows are warm colours—think of sunshine and fire. Blues, greens and greys are cool colours—think of blue water and dark clouds.

Scaly armadillos live in the hot desert. In the middle of the day the sky, desert and mountains are warm shades of yellow, orange and brown. But at night, the sky goes a cool dark blue, the mountains turn purple, while the moon and stars glow bright white.



10. Choose the best captions to replace

**Day** and **Night**.

- (A) After and **Before**
- (B) North and **South**
- (C) Up and **Down**
- D** Warm and **Cool**

11. Which circle has been filled with warm colours?

- (A) grey  orange
- (B) yellow  red
- (C) blue  green
- (D) purple  brown

Read "Stellaluna" and answer questions 12 to 18.

# Stellaluna

In a warm and sultry forest far, far away, there once lived a mother fruit bat and her new baby.

Oh, how Mother Bat loved her soft tiny baby. "I'll name you Stellaluna," she crooned.

Each night, Mother Bat carried Stellaluna clutched to her breast as she flew out to search for food.

One night, as Mother Bat followed the heavy scent of ripe fruit, an owl spied her. On silent wings the powerful bird swooped down upon the bats.

Dodging and shrieking, Mother Bat tried to escape, but the owl struck again and again, knocking Stellaluna into the air. Her baby wings were as limp and useless as wet paper.

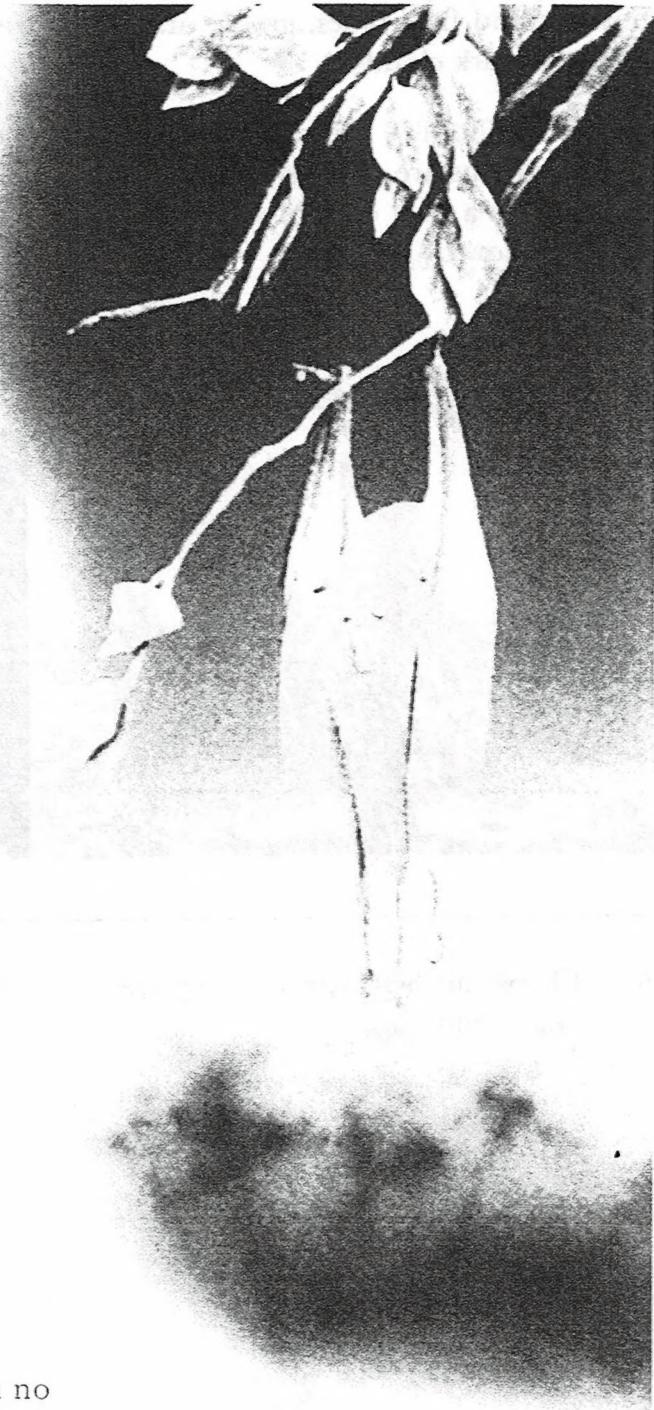
Down, down she went, faster and faster, into the forest below.

The dark leafy tangle of branches caught Stellaluna as she fell. One twig was small enough for Stellaluna's tiny feet. Wrapping her wings about her, she clutched the thin branch, trembling with cold and fear.

"Mother," Stellaluna squeaked. "Where are you?"

By daybreak, the baby bat could hold on no longer. Down, down again she dropped.

Flump! Stellaluna landed headfirst in a soft downy nest, startling the three baby birds who lived there.



12. From the words "Each night", the reader can tell that Mother Bat

- (A) was afraid to search for food.
- (B) had not searched for food in the forest before.
- (C) searched for food alone.
- (D) searched for food every night.

13. Which of the following words from the story means **held tightly**?

- (A) "crooned"
- (B) "carried"
- (C) "caught"
- (D) "clutched"

14. The baby bat's wings are compared to

- (A) the air.
- (B) wet paper.
- (C) ripe fruit.
- (D) a thin branch.

15. When did Stellaluna fall into the birds' nest?

- (A) at night
- (B) at sunrise
- (C) at midday
- (D) at sunset

16. An adjective is a describing word. Which of the underlined words in the following sentence is an adjective?

"The dark leafy tangle of branches caught Stellaluna as she fell."

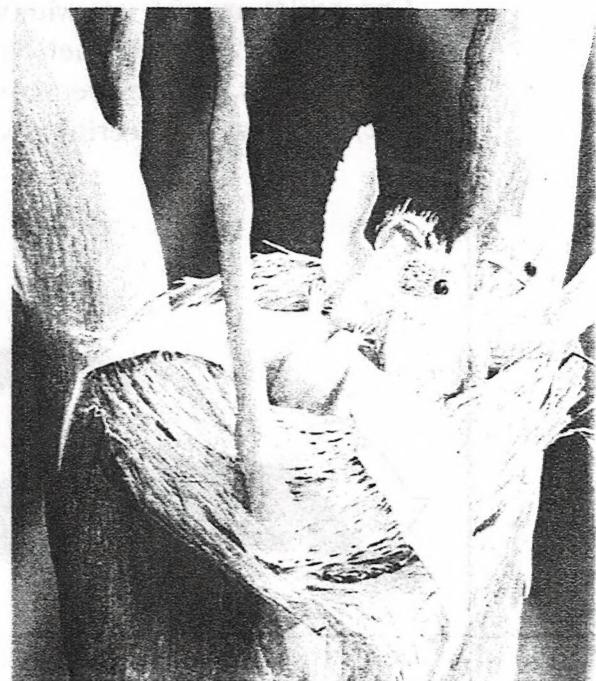
- (A)
- (B)
- (C)
- (D)

17. The word, "*Flump*", describes the sound that Stellaluna made when she

- (A) called to the three baby birds.
- (B) cried out to her mother.
- (C) fell into the nest.
- (D) fell through the air.

18. From the first sentence of *Stellaluna*, the reader can tell that the

- (A) passage is about imaginary events.
- (B) narrator is Mother Bat.
- (C) passage is set in the future.
- (D) main character is the owl.



For questions 19 to 22 choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word.

SE

stiff not flexible or bendable (A)

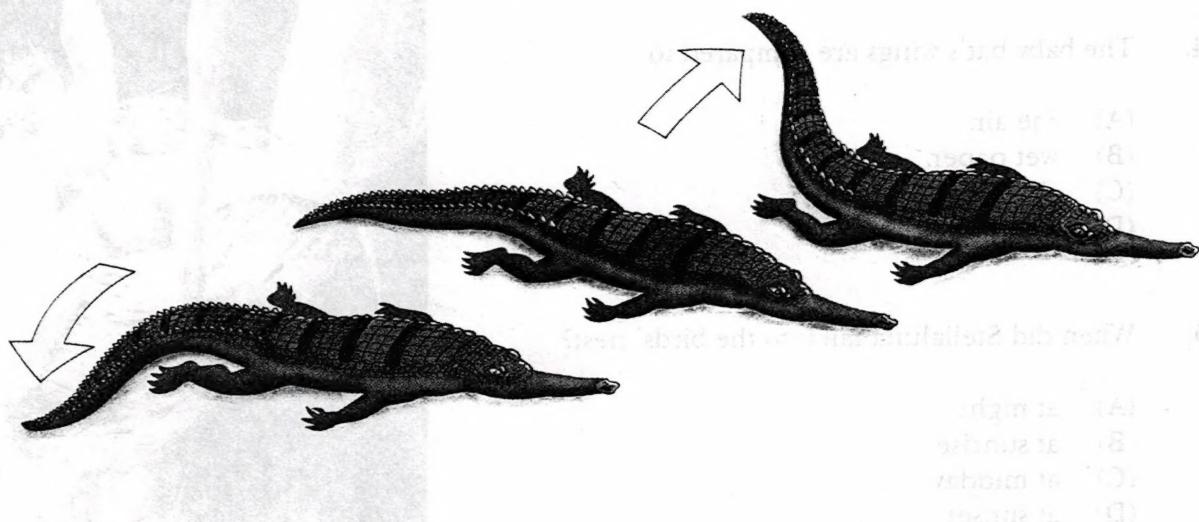
dangerous not safe from harm (B)

strong not weak or feeble (C)

large enough to be useful (D)

# Crocodiles

Crocodiles live in tropical regions, in or near water. They spend much of the day lying in the sun. When a crocodile is in the water, most of its body is (19) rigid. Crocodiles are able to swim well by sweeping their (20) powerful tails from side to side. They (21) swish their tails using muscles which are found along the length of their bodies. This movement propels the crocodile forwards. Crocodiles use their (22) rear legs for steering and for paddling.



19. (A) stiff  
(B) scaly  
(C) solid  
(D) stretched

20. (A) rough  
(B) dangerous  
(C) strong  
(D) enormous

21. (A) swap  
(B) swing  
(C) raise  
(D) rest

22. (A) top  
(B) thick  
(C) long  
(D) back

For questions 23 to 26 choose the correct punctuation to complete the passage.

# The Gingerbread Man

A little old woman began to bake and all at once she knew what to make.  
"I'll mix him and stir him and put him in a pan and then I shall bake my  
gingerbread man (23)

But out of the oven there came a cry, "Let me out! Let me out (24) I don't want to fry."  
She opened the oven (25) He raced for the door.  
"You'll never catch me (26) the little man called.

- |     |     |                                   |        |
|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 23. | (A) | full stop                         | (.)    |
|     | (B) | full stop and inverted commas     | (.,")  |
|     | (C) | question mark and inverted commas | (?,"") |
|     | (D) | comma and inverted commas         | (,"")  |
| 24. | (A) | full stop and inverted commas     | (.,")  |
|     | (B) | question mark                     | (?)    |
|     | (C) | exclamation mark                  | (!)    |
|     | (D) | comma and inverted commas         | (,"")  |
| 25. | (A) | comma                             | (,)    |
|     | (B) | full stop                         | (.)    |
|     | (C) | question mark                     | (?)    |
|     | (D) | exclamation mark                  | (!)    |
| 26. | (A) | full stop and inverted commas     | (.,")  |
|     | (B) | inverted commas                   | (")    |
|     | (C) | question mark and inverted commas | (?,"") |
|     | (D) | comma and inverted commas         | (,"")  |



For questions 27 to 29 choose the underlined word which is SPELT INCORRECTLY.

27. On a clear night the temperature is usualy lower than on a foggy night.  
(A) (B) (C) (D)
28. Hailstorms can cause a large amount of damige.  
(A) (B) (C) (D)
29. If there has been rain durring the night, there is less chance of frost in the morning.  
(A) (B) (C) (D)

Read "There and Back" and answer questions 30 to 35.

# THERE AND BACK

Train leaps forward —

silver track

bullet fast

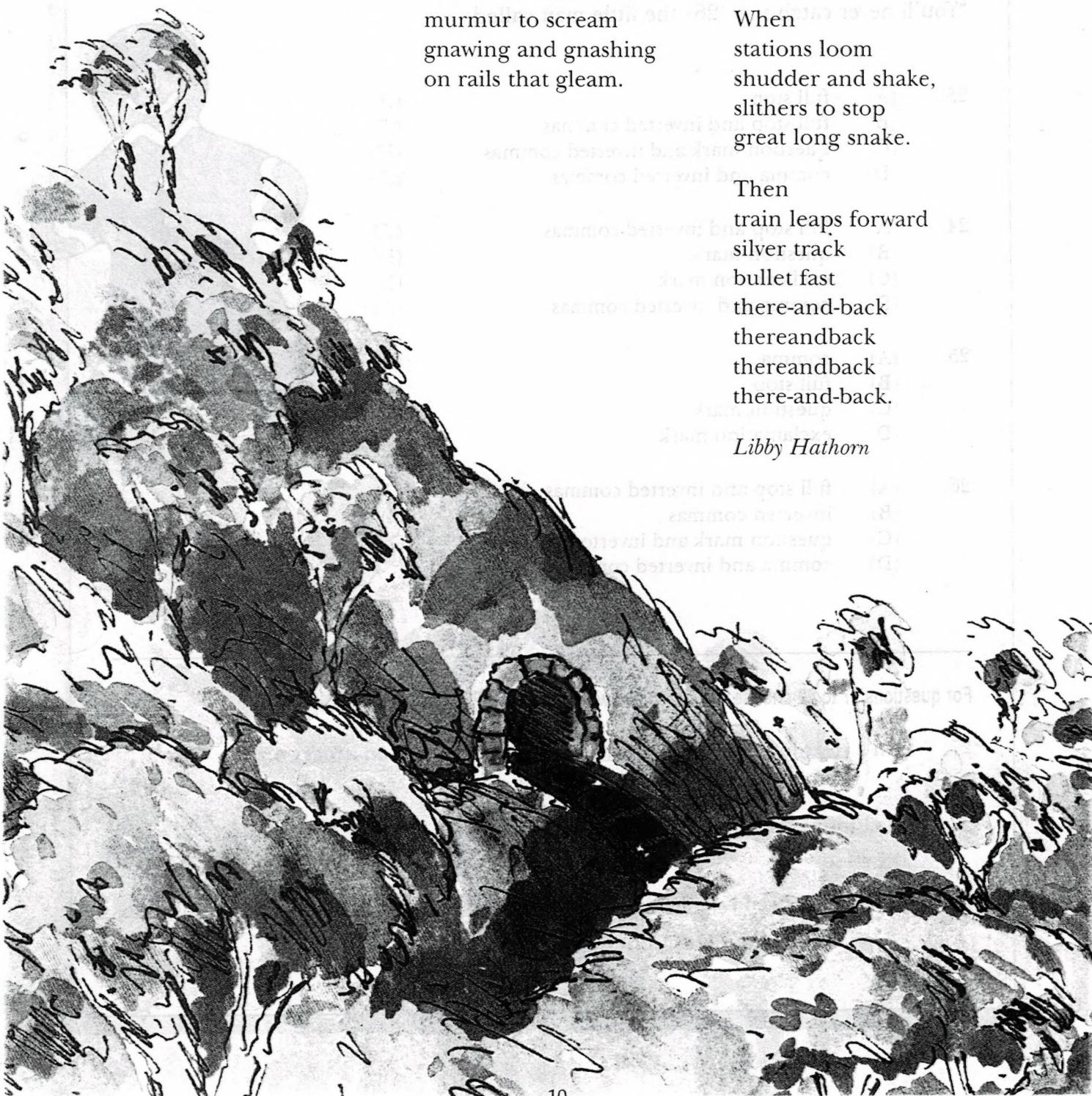
there and back.

I love the sound  
murmur to scream  
gnawing and gnashing  
on rails that gleam.

When  
stations loom  
shudder and shake,  
slithers to stop  
great long snake.

Then  
train leaps forward  
silver track  
bullet fast  
there-and-back  
thereandback  
thereandback  
there-and-back.

Libby Hathorn



30. What does the poet “love” about trains?

- (A) the way trains move on the tracks
- (B) the noises that trains make
- (C) the way trains look
- (D) the places that trains go to

32. The word “gleam” describes how the rails

- (A) slope.
- (B) shine.
- (C) slip.
- (D) scrape.

34. In the line “stations loom”, the word “loom” suggests that the

- (A) train seems longer than the stations.
- (B) train misses the stations.
- (C) stations appear suddenly.
- (D) stations begin to shake.

31. The words “murmur to scream” most likely describe the

- (A) doors of the train as they open and close.
- (B) feelings of the poet.
- (C) sounds of the train as it changes speed.
- (D) sounds made by the passengers.

33. Which word does the poet use to compare the train to a snake?

- (A) “gnawing”
- (B) “gnashing”
- (C) “shudder”
- (D) “slithers”

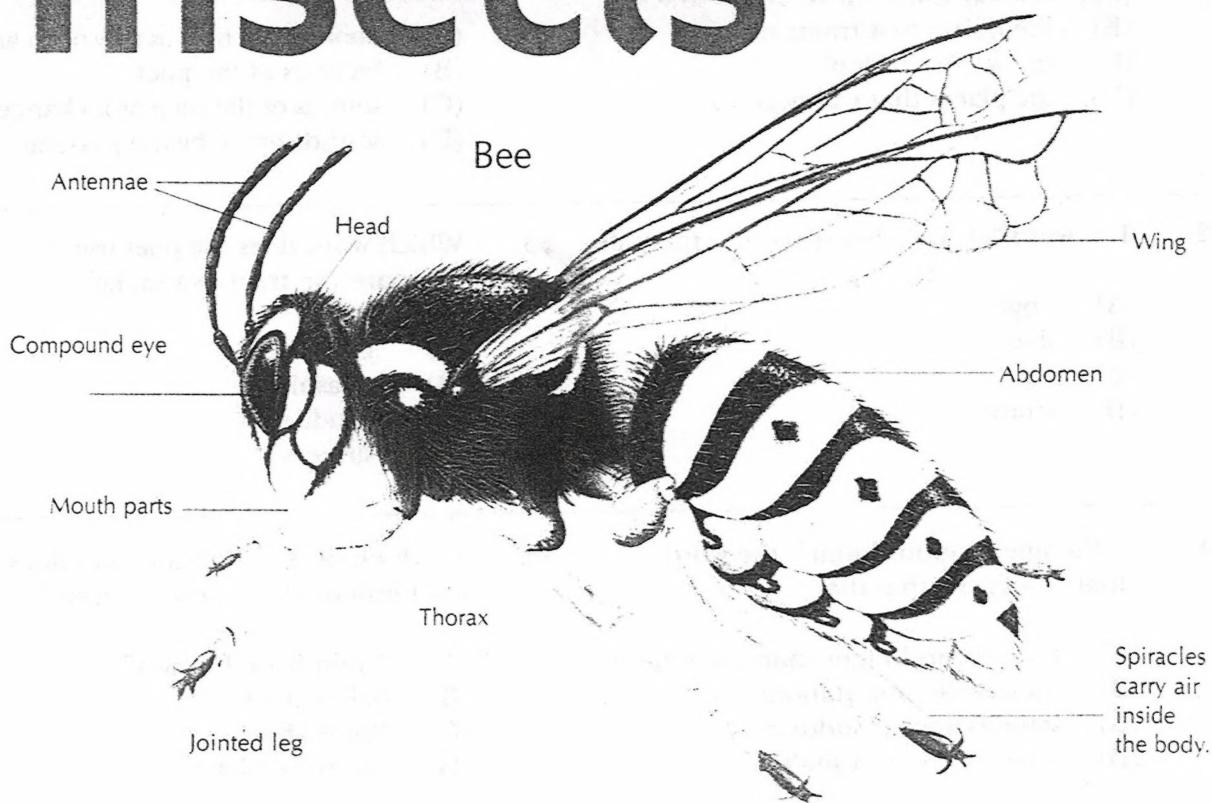
35. In which of the following lines does the poet imitate the sound of a train?

- (A) “train leaps forward”
- (B) “silver track”
- (C) “bullet fast”
- (D) “there-and-back”



Read "Insects" and answer questions 36 to 42.

# Insects



Seven-spotted ladybird (beetle)

Insects are the most successful of all animal groups. They make up 85% of the whole animal kingdom. There are as many as 10 000 insects living on every square metre of the earth's surface. It is possible for insects to live in almost any environment and to eat nearly all kinds of food.



Firebug

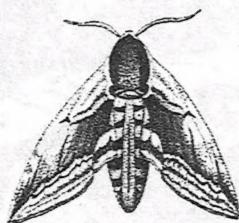


Common cockroach

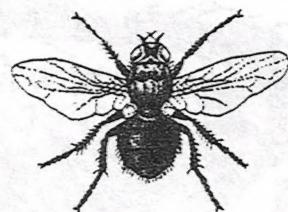
There are many different kinds of insects but they all share a common body design. All adult insects have a segmented body which is divided into three parts: head, thorax and abdomen. All insects have three pairs of jointed legs, and most have four wings. The pictures show some easily recognisable insects.



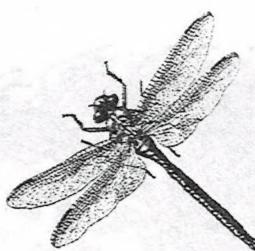
Wood ant



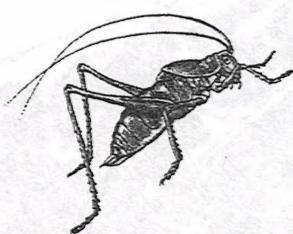
Privet hawkmoth



Bluebottle (fly)



Emperor dragonfly



Bush cricket

36. On which part of an insect's body are the spiracles found?

- (A) the head
- (B) the thorax
- (C) the abdomen
- (D) the wings

37. According to the information, what do all insects have in common?

- (A) They have three pairs of legs.
- (B) They have four wings.
- (C) They have striped bodies.
- (D) They have antennae on their abdomens.

38. It is possible to tell from the information that

- (A) there are 10 000 different types of insect in the world.
- (B) the largest part of a wood ant is its head.
- (C) the common cockroach has smooth legs.
- (D) 85% of all living creatures in the world are insects.

39. What type of insect is a ladybird?

- (A) a fly
- (B) a beetle
- (C) an ant
- (D) a moth

40. Which word from the information means able to be identified?

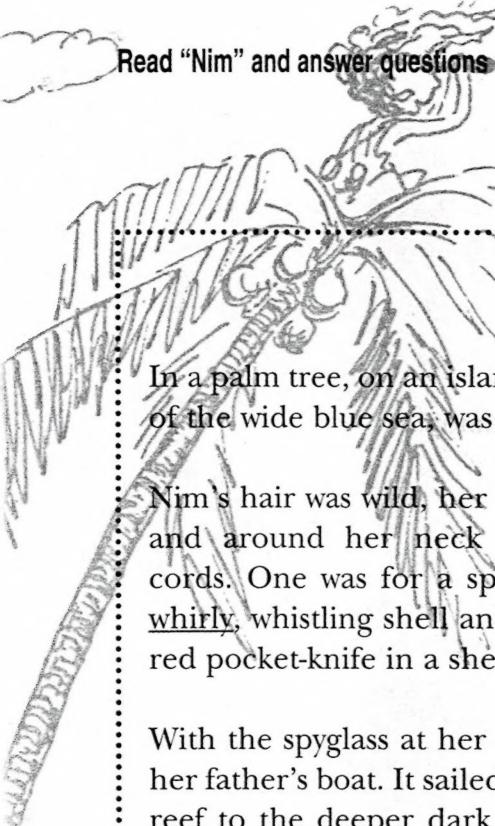
- (A) "successful"
- (B) "possible"
- (C) "common"
- (D) "recognisable"

41. Which of the following words is **SPELT INCORRECTLY** when it is written as a plural?

SINGULAR	PLURAL
(A) cockroach	cockroachs
(B) body	bodies
(C) dragonfly	dragonflies
(D) surface	surfaces

42. Which of the following lines suggests that, as an insect grows older, its body changes?

- (A) "Insects are the most successful of all animal groups"
- (B) "All adult insects have a segmented body"
- (C) "Spiracles carry air inside the body"
- (D) "There are as many as 10 000 insects"



Read "Nim" and answer questions 43 to 50.

# Nim

In a palm tree, on an island, in the middle of the wide blue sea, was a girl.

Nim's hair was wild, her eyes were bright, and around her neck she wore three cords. One was for a spyglass, one for a whirly, whistling shell and the other a fat, red pocket-knife in a sheath.

With the spyglass at her eye, she watched her father's boat. It sailed out through the reef to the deeper dark ocean, and Jack turned to wave and Nim waved back, though she knew he couldn't see.

Then the white sails caught the wind and blew him out of sight, and Nim was alone. For three days and three nights, whatever happened or needed doing, Nim would do it.

"And what we need first," said Nim, "is breakfast!" So she threw four ripe coconuts thump! into the sand, and climbed down after them.

Then she whistled her shell, two long, shrill notes that carried far out to the reef where the sea lions were fishng. Selkie popped her head above the water. She had a fish in her mouth, but she swallowed it fast and dived towards the beach.

And from a rock by the hut, Fred came scuttling. Fred was an iguana, spiky as a dragon, with a cheerful snub nose. He twined round Nim's feet in a prickly hug.

Now Selkie was flopping up the beach to greet them, but "We'll come in too!" Nim shouted, and dived off the rocks.

Selkie twisted and shot up underneath, gliding Nim through the waves, thumping over, ducking under. Nim clung tight, till she was half sea lion and half girl, and all of her was part ocean.

43. The word "whirly" is used to describe the

- (A) texture of the shell.
- (B) size of the shell.
- (C) shape of the shell.
- (D) origin of the shell.

44. The reader can tell that Selkie is most probably

- (A) a dragon.
- (B) a fish.
- (C) an iguana.
- (D) a sea lion.

45. The word "twined", as it is used in this passage, means

- (A) raced.
- (B) curled.
- (C) rubbed.
- (D) dived.

46. Choose the order in which these events occur.

1. Selkie swallowed a fish.
2. Nim looked through the spyglass.
3. Jack climbed into his boat.
4. Fred gave Nim a hug.

- (A) 2, 3, 4, 1
- (B) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (C) 3, 2, 1, 4
- (D) 3, 1, 2, 4

47. In the words "was flopping up the beach to greet them", the word "them" refers to

- (A) Nim and Fred.
- (B) Selkie and Nim.
- (C) Fred and Jack.
- (D) Selkie and Jack.

48. In this passage, who is "fishing" and "ducking"?

- (A) Selkie
- (B) Nim
- (C) Jack
- (D) Fred

49. The word "*thump!*" is written in italics to

- (A) indicate the size of the coconuts.
- (B) emphasise the sound of the coconuts landing.
- (C) reflect the shape of the coconuts.
- (D) describe the contents of the coconuts.

50. The final sentence in this passage suggests that Nim

- (A) feels at ease in the water.
- (B) wants to swim as fast as Selkie.
- (C) wants Selkie to take her to Jack.
- (D) is searching for a sea lion.

